

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An ink for ink-jet recording comprising:
water; and
a pigment,
wherein a surface tension of the ink is not less than 40 mN/m, and an amount of dissolved oxygen in the ink is between 3 mg/L to about not more than 4 mg/L.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Original) The ink for ink-jet recording according to claim 1, further comprising at least one of a surfactant and a water-soluble organic solvent.
4. (Withdrawn) A container comprising:
an ink for ink-jet recording including water and a pigment,
wherein a surface tension of the ink is not less than 40 mN/m, an amount of dissolved oxygen in the ink is not more than 4 mg/L, and the container shuts out oxygen.

5. (Previously Presented) A method for producing an ink for ink-jet recording comprising water and a coloring agent wherein a surface tension of the ink is not less than 40 mN/m, the method comprising:

preparing the ink; and

applying a deoxidation treatment to the prepared ink so that an amount of dissolved oxygen contained in the ink is not more than 4 mg/L,

wherein the deoxidation treatment is performed by a vacuum thin film deoxidation method.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Canceled).

8. (Original) The method for producing the ink for ink-jet recording according to claim 5, wherein the prepared ink is subjected to the deoxidation treatment so that the amount of dissolved oxygen contained in the ink is not more than 2.5 mg/L.

9. (Withdrawn) An ink-jet recording apparatus comprising:
a recording head which discharges an ink onto a recording medium to perform recording;
a restoring unit which includes a suction cap for detachably covering a nozzle surface of the recording head, and a suction pump for sucking the ink contained in the recording head through the suction cap; and
an ink container which accommodates the ink to be supplied to the recording head, wherein:
a surface tension of the ink is not less than 40 mN/m, and an amount of dissolved oxygen contained in the ink is not more than 4 mg/L.

10. (Withdrawn) The ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the recording head is formed by stacking a plurality of thin plates with an adhesive.

11. (Withdrawn) The ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein an ink flow passage, which is communicated with a nozzle, is formed in the recording head, and the adhesive is exposed to a wall surface of the ink flow passage.

12. (Withdrawn) The ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the adhesive is an epoxy resin.

13. (Withdrawn) The ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the amount of dissolved oxygen contained in the ink is not more than 2.5 mg/L.

14. (Withdrawn) The ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the ink container is a replaceable ink cartridge.

15. (Currently Amended) An ink for ink-jet recording comprising:
water; and
a coloring agent,
wherein a surface tension of the ink is not less than 40 mN/m, and an amount of dissolved oxygen in the ink is between ~~about~~ 3 mg/L to about 4 mg/L.

16. (Previously Presented) The ink for ink-jet recording according to claim 15, further comprising at least one of a surfactant and a water-soluble organic solvent.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an ink for ink-jet recording comprising water and a coloring agent wherein a surface tension of the ink is not less than 40 mN/m, the method comprising:

preparing the ink; and

applying a deoxidation treatment to the prepared ink so that an amount of dissolved oxygen contained in the ink is between ~~about~~ 3 mg/L to about 4 mg/L.

18. (Previously Presented) The method for producing the ink for ink-jet recording according to claim 17, wherein the deoxidation treatment is performed by a vacuum think film deoxidation method.

19. (Previously Presented) The method for producing the ink for ink-jet recording according to claim 17, wherein the deoxidation treatment is performed by introducing an inert gas into the prepared ink.